



Town of Rowe  
**Board of Selectmen** Minutes  
Tuesday, February 2, 2021 –4:00 p.m.  
VIA TELECONFERENCE

*This meeting will be held via video conference, consistent with Gov. Baker's temporary modifications to Open Meeting Law due to the COVID-19 pandemic.*

**Board of Selectmen:** Chair Charles Sokol, Selectman Joanne Semanie  
**Absent:** Selectman Ed Silva  
**Administrative Staff:** Janice Boudreau, Executive Secretary, Paul McLatchy III Administrative Assistant  
**Staff:** Board of Health Chair Maggie Rice  
**Audience:** Ben Werner- Director Rowe Camp & Conference Center

**Call to Order:** Chair Sokol called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m., a quorum of the board present via remote participation.

**MOTION: Roll call vote to call to order:**

**Chair Sokol:**                      **yes**

**Silva:**                                **absent**

**Vice-Chair Semanie:**       **yes**

**Background:** This group of individuals (self-titled "Covid Group") has been meeting weekly for the past few months to listen to the state Covid-19 briefings and discuss ongoing matters in town related to the pandemic. As Board of Health (BOH) Clerk Joanne Semanie was elected last Saturday to the Board of Selectmen, there is now a quorum of the board present during these weekly meetings, and as such, must take place in open session.

**Covid Discussion:** The following points/topics were addressed during discussion:  
Maggie Rice, Board of Health Chair reported the following:

- Working on opening up more COVID Clinics in Franklin County
- There is more testing occurring in Franklin County
- Working on developing walk-through clinics
- Rowe First Responders, Fire & Police have been vaccinated.
- It was noted that there are not adequate vaccines allotted to Western Mass.
- The system may have not be adequately prepared to serve the next group of people or over 75 years old population.

**The following message was prepared for the Public Notification System:**

"Good Evening Rowe Residents,

The following is the weekly message regarding the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic. Topics include post-vaccine precautions, updated information regarding vaccination availability, and guidelines on how to stay safe between now and when you do receive a vaccination.

Evidence gathered from those who have received vaccination suggests that people who have been vaccinated have a very, very high degree of protection from becoming sick when they are exposed to the Coronavirus. However, some people who have received vaccination can still catch COVID, as was the case for Massachusetts Representative Stephen Lynch as reported widely late last week. Although the vaccinations provide a very high degree of protection from COVID, and people who are vaccinated are almost certain to avoid major illness, there is a small chance that even after being vaccinated you could still catch COVID from someone else, and -- more importantly -- pass on that infection to someone who has not yet been vaccinated.

As such, it's extremely important that everyone -- including people who have been vaccinated -- continue to reduce exposure to others: that means wearing masks that cover both your mouth and nose whenever in public, maintaining distance when around others, minimizing time in indoor public spaces, and whenever possible limiting travel. These measures are meant not just to protect yourself, but to protect those around you.

The State of Massachusetts has established a phased approach to allocate vaccination doses as they become available, which can be found to by following the link on the [Rowe town website](#), or by visiting [Mass.gov](#)

As of February 1st, people aged 75 or older are eligible to sign up for vaccination. The Massachusetts website features an interactive map of vaccination locations throughout the state. Selecting a vaccination location will allow an eligible person to sign up to receive a vaccination at that facility.

However, it is important to remember that vaccination supplies are currently limited, and demand remains high. When signing up for a vaccination online, be aware that the date available to you to actually receive a vaccination may not be as soon as you would hope, and if you choose to sign up via a phone call to a distribution facility, the wait time on the phone may also be very long — some people have reported hold times of several hours.

A link to the vaccination locations on the Massachusetts website is available via the [Rowe-ma.gov](#) website, or by [clicking here](#).

The Rowe Coronavirus task force will continue to keep you updated on these and other coronavirus topics on an on-going basis, typically with weekly updates or when prudent.

Thank you, and stay healthy"

~Chuck Sokol

Adjournment:

MOTION: Seeing no further business, Vice-Chair Semanie made a motion to adjourn the meeting 4:50 p.m. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chair Semanie.

MOTION: Roll call vote to Motion:

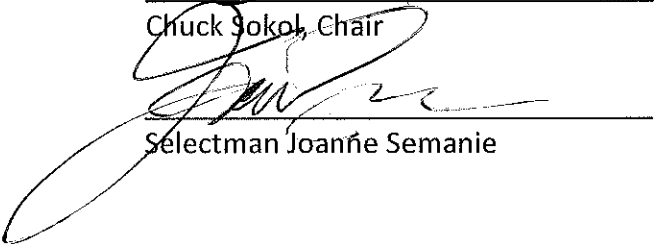
Chair Sokol: yes      Vice-Chair Semanie:    yes (Vote: 2-0-0)

Respectfully Submitted,

Janice Boudreau, Executive Secretary

Approval Date: FEBRUARY 11, 2021

Approved:

  
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Chuck Sokol, Chair  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Selectman Joanne Semanie

**Documents:**

- Agenda February 2, 2021